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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the enclosed remarks is requested. No claims are amended. Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-20 are now pending in the application.

ARGUMENT

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,658,463 to Dillon et al. (hereafter, "Dillon et al.") in view of U.S. Patent 6,173,322 to Hu (hereinafter "Hu") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,226,650 to Mahajan et al. (hereinafter "Mahajan et al."). However, in the body of the rejection, the Examiner also cites "Hopmann", which Applicants assume to be U.S. Patent No. 6,694,335 to Hopmann et al. (hereinafter "Hopmann et al."). This rejection is improper on its face as the Examiner has failed to properly cite the references used in the rejection. Therefore, the finality of the office action should be withdrawn and a new office action issued in its place. However, in an effort to be fully responsive, Applicant assumes that the Hopmann et al. reference was intended to be cited instead of Hu and this response is proffered with this interpretation. This rejection is respectfully traversed and Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-20 are believed allowable based on the following discussion.

Applicants maintain their arguments as presented in their previous response. Further, additional combination of the Mahajan et al. reference fails to show all of the elements of Applicants' claimed invention, as discussed below.

Applicants' cache device may store information from the user (portable device) until such time as the remote device becomes available. The remote device has access to a database which is typically too large to store on the portable device. For instance, a user may update large amounts of information to be synchronized with a database via the remote device, but the remote device may not always be available. Further, the user may desire to uncouple the portable wireless communication appliance from the cache device, i.e., take the portable device to another location, and enable the remote database to be updated as soon as the remote device becomes available. In some instances, the cache device is "always on" whether or not it is in

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communication with the portable device. Thus, updates may occur to/from the cache device even when the portable device is not in proximity to the cache device.

In general, the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not teach the claimed elements of Applicants' invention. None of the references teach managing a database where a predetermined portion of the database is stored on the cache-device where the cache-device is accessible to a portable device, where the portable device may cause an update to a remote database via a remote device while connected to the cache-device or that the update is delayed until the remote device becomes available. In the latter case, the portable device may no longer be connected the cache-device.

The Examiner misapplies the teachings of Dillon et al., as Dillon et al. teach a method for caching web pages for faster access to a user. Dillon et al. do not teach updating or managing a database based on information received from a user (via the portable device).

Specifically, Hopmann et al. teach a device for synchronizing changes among multiple copies of data. Hopmann et al. teach that an identifier represents the current state of the data and the identifier is used to determine what, if any, changes have occurred to the data. Thus, instead of comparing the data itself to see if changes have been made, the identifier is used to simply and easily determine if changes were made to the data.

The Examiner admits that Hopmann et al. do not disclose a cache device configured to *communicate wirelessly with the portable wireless communication appliance and to communicate with the remote device, the cache device storing a copy of a predetermined portion of the database*. The Examiner asserts that Dillon et al. teach this.

Dillon et al. teach a multicast system to provide proxy servers having web page content to be retrieved by a web server. There is no user interaction to a portable device disclosed in Fig.4. The end point of the information is on the web server(s) 110. Cache misses are limited to the web server and require additional data download from the proxy servers. In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention allows a portable device to operate even when unconnected from the remote system having the database. Dillon et al. require the web servers to have access to the proxy servers and update information not held in cache, as necessary, when a cache miss occurs. Dillon et al. do not teach or suggest a system that will allow a user to continue to operate a portable device when unconnected to the remote device (server). Hopmann et al. teach a system for

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updating database changes, but do not teach or imply a system that will enable a portable device to operate even when the cache device is unconnected to the remote device (server).

The Examiner also admits that neither Dillon et al. nor Hopmann et al. disclose *wherein the remote device is configured to both send and retrieve database updates to and from the portable wireless communication appliance via the cache device*. The Examiner asserts that Mahajan et al. teach this at Col. 5, lines 36-51. In fact, Mahajan et al. teach a system for updating databases on computer systems of an intermittently connected database system. Mahajan et al. teach that a subset of data of the server database stored in a local database. (Col. 5, lines 39-40) In this context, the local database is stored on or in the computer 16 and cannot be decoupled from the computer. It is not stored on a separate device. Mahajan et al. also teach that when the subset of data is modified that the modifications are transmitted to the server database. Applicants' claimed invention does not store a subset of data in a local database as taught by Mahajan et al. Claim 1, for instance, requires *the cache device storing a copy of a predetermined portion of the database*. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the predetermined portion of the database is not stored locally. The portable device and cache device are coupled via a wireless communication device. It will be understood one of ordinary skill in the art that the portable device may be operated when it is not in proximity to the cache device for many purposes. For instance, a non-exhaustive list of example portable devices is described in the Background section as including personal digital assistants, radiotelephones, and laptop computers, and other devices equipped with computing and wireless communication features. It will be apparent to one of skill in the art that these types of devices are meant to be transported by a user for use away from the cache device. None of the references cited teach or disclose a system for operating a portable device in the following scenarios:

- portable device in proximity to the cache device,
 - where the cache device is in contact with the remote device database,
 - where the cache device is not in contact with the remote device database;and
- portable device not in proximity to the cache device.

Thus, combining the teachings of Dillon et al., Hopmann et al. and Mahajan et al. will not result in Applicants' claimed invention.

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As for Claims 5, 10 and 15, the claimed invention requires *a cache device storing a predetermined portion of the database*, where the cache device is in wireless communication with the portable device. Hopmann et al. do not teach or suggest that a predetermined portion of the database is stored on a cache device that, by definition of a portable device, may be intermittently connected to the portable device. The cited references show systems and methods for synchronizing databases and enabling faster download of web information using proxy servers. The cited references do not teach a portable device that may operate within or without proximity to a cache device, wherein the cache device operates to either pass database information from a remote device through to the portable device, or caches portions of data for the portable device to use when then the remote device is unavailable. Thus, all of the pending claims are believed allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 12-20 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 633-6845. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please charge any shortage of fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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